Jerry Iger's
SHEENA
Queen of the Jungle
3-D
$2.00
$2.60 CANADA
#1
BLACKTHORNE PUBLISHING
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HEROINE IN THE JUNGLE

So much has been said about "Sheena, Queen of the Jungle" that it's become almost impossible to separate fact from lore. Certainly Sheena ranks among the all-time great comic heroines, and will remain in high esteem as long as there are comic book afficionados and collectors.

Back in 1937, I had been producing a lot of material under my own banner, "Universal Phoenix Features." In my shop were some wonderful artists, many of whom worked free-lance on an "as needed" basis. Included were such names as Mort Meskin and Will Eisner. In addition to supplying comic strip material around the U.S., I had a business relationship with Editors Press Service. EPS represented American syndicated services overseas, and was interested in the features I was publishing. At that time, I was supplying strips for a magazine called "Wags." This was a black and white tabloid that enjoyed a large European circulation, and was handled by EPS.

Eduardo Cardenas, who was in charge of the EPS publication (and who later became the Foreign Editor for Reader's Digest), called me in to plan some new features for Wags. He mentioned the popularity of "Tarzan," and asked me whether I could do a "knock-off" for his magazine. I replied that my shop was known for its original material, and that I didn't like the idea of doing a male jungle hero. "Why couldn't we have a jungle heroine?" I asked Eduardo. He replied that it sounded OK to him, but what would I call it. Thinking back, it's strange to remember all the random ideas that used to go into creating new characters. For some reason, my mind wandered to early days in New York, when Jewish people were sometimes called "Sheenies" as an insult, and I piped up, "Why don't we call her 'Sheena'?" Eduardo didn't ask how I thought that one up, and I didn't offer to tell him, but the name had a nice ring to it, and it stuck. Once we had agreed that the new character's name would be "Sheena," Eduardo asked me to go back to my studio and bring him some sample drawings.

Arriving at the Universal Phoenix Features office, I looked through my roster of artists to see whom I'd pick to draw the prototype. I chose Mort Meskin to do the first drawings. Mort was one of the free-lance artists I relied on. He mostly did illustrations, and this project offered him his first opportunity to sign his name to a published work. Another free-lancer at that time was Will Eisner. Will was working for me doing "Hawk of the Seas" and "ZX-5." He also did sports drawings that I syndicated with my other materials throughout the U.S. (a good collection of these drawings is in the book "Heroes of Sport" which I published with my partner, Lee Caplin, in 1984 as a trade book under the Pacific Comics label). Some people have thought Will also had a role in the creation of "Sheena," but the closest Will got to Sheena was to do the art for a cover or two long after the character had been published by Wags. The artists who are best remembered as drawing Sheena are Robert Webb and Bob Powell.

After Wags had been running the Sheena strips I approached them to buy

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May 1985, Printed in Canada

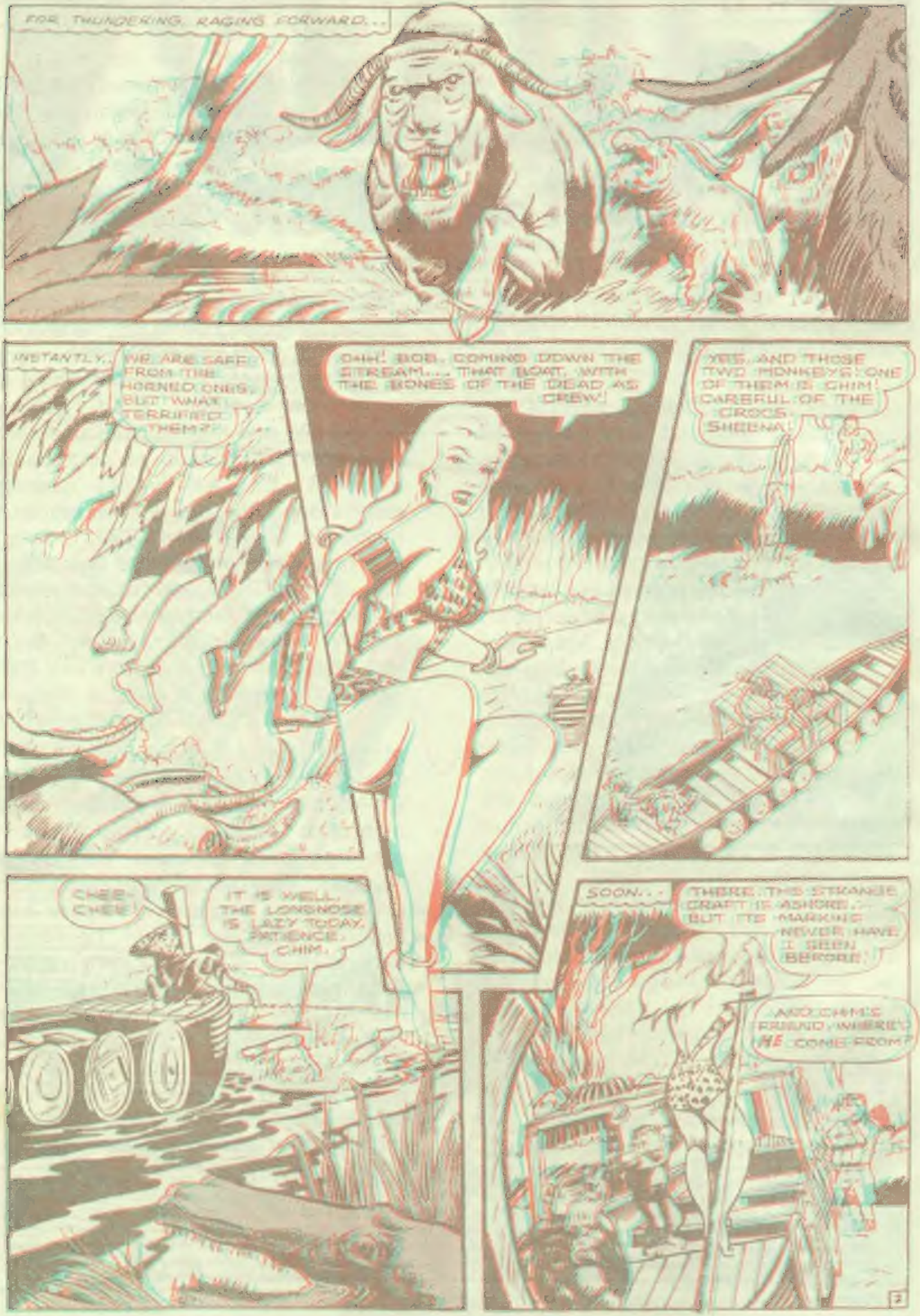
(INTRODUCTION continued on inside back cover)

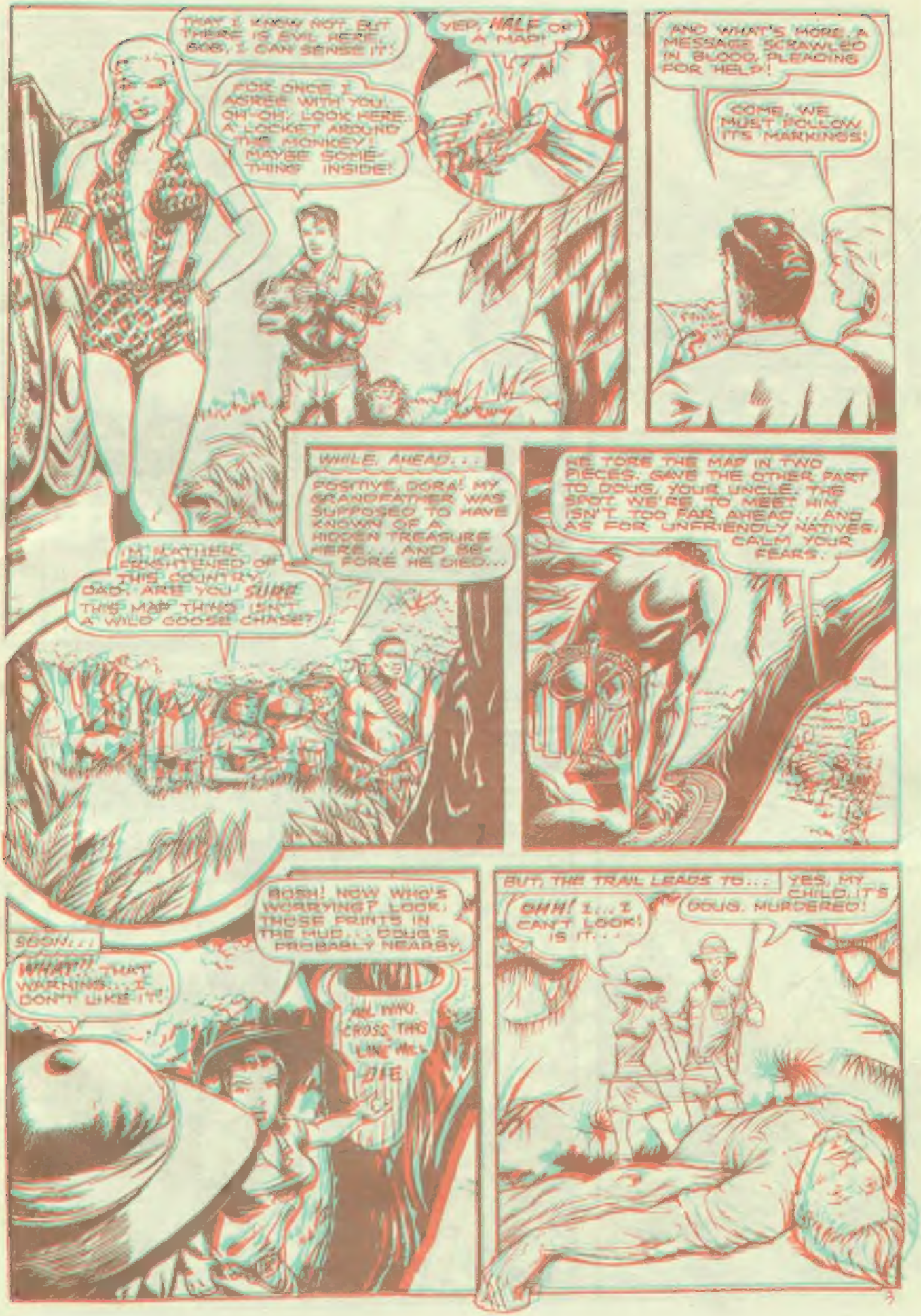
SHEENA
Queen of the Jungle
BY W. MORGAN THOMAS
FOR MANY MOONS HAD EAGER SEEKERS COME... FOLLOWING THE BLOOD SPOOR OF THE TARUS SKULL... GREEDY FOR THE GOLD OF WHICH IT WHISPERED. AND YET... FROM THAT MYSTERIOUS TRAIL NONE HAD RETURNED! THEN FATE DESTINED THAT SHEENA, QUEEN OF THE JUNGLE, SHOULD HEAR THAT CHALLENGE... SO, SHE SCREAMED DEFIANCE AND PLUNGED DOWN THAT EERIE PATH TO CERTAIN DEATH!
THAT FIXES THE OUTPOST, SHEENA... NOW WE CAN TRY...
BOB, QUICK! OUT OF THE WAY... OR DEATH!

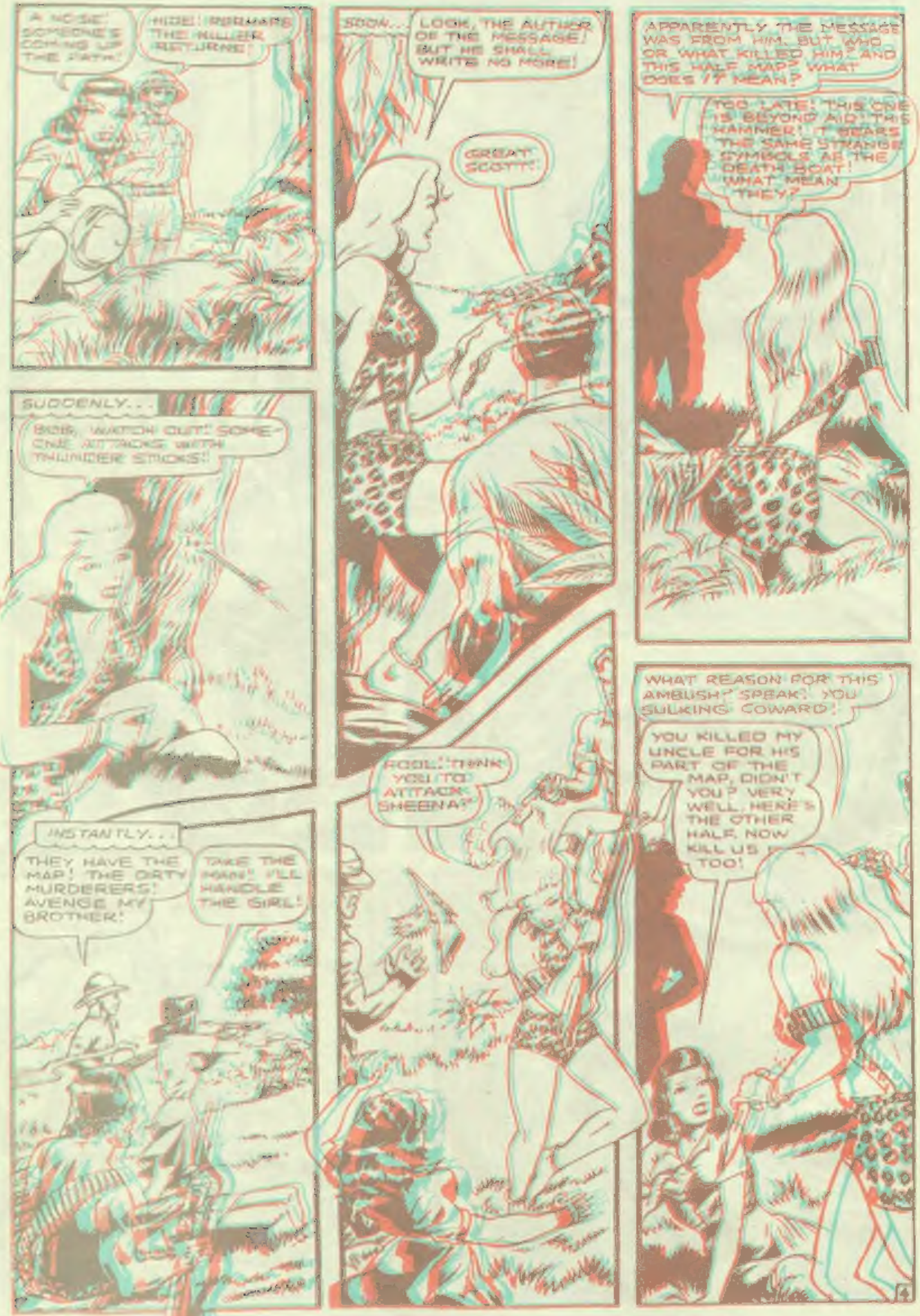
3-D PROCESS: RAY ZONE

NOTICE TO ALL READERS

IN ORDER FOR THE 3-D EFFECT TO WORK, THE RED LENSE MUST BE OVER THE LEFT EYE

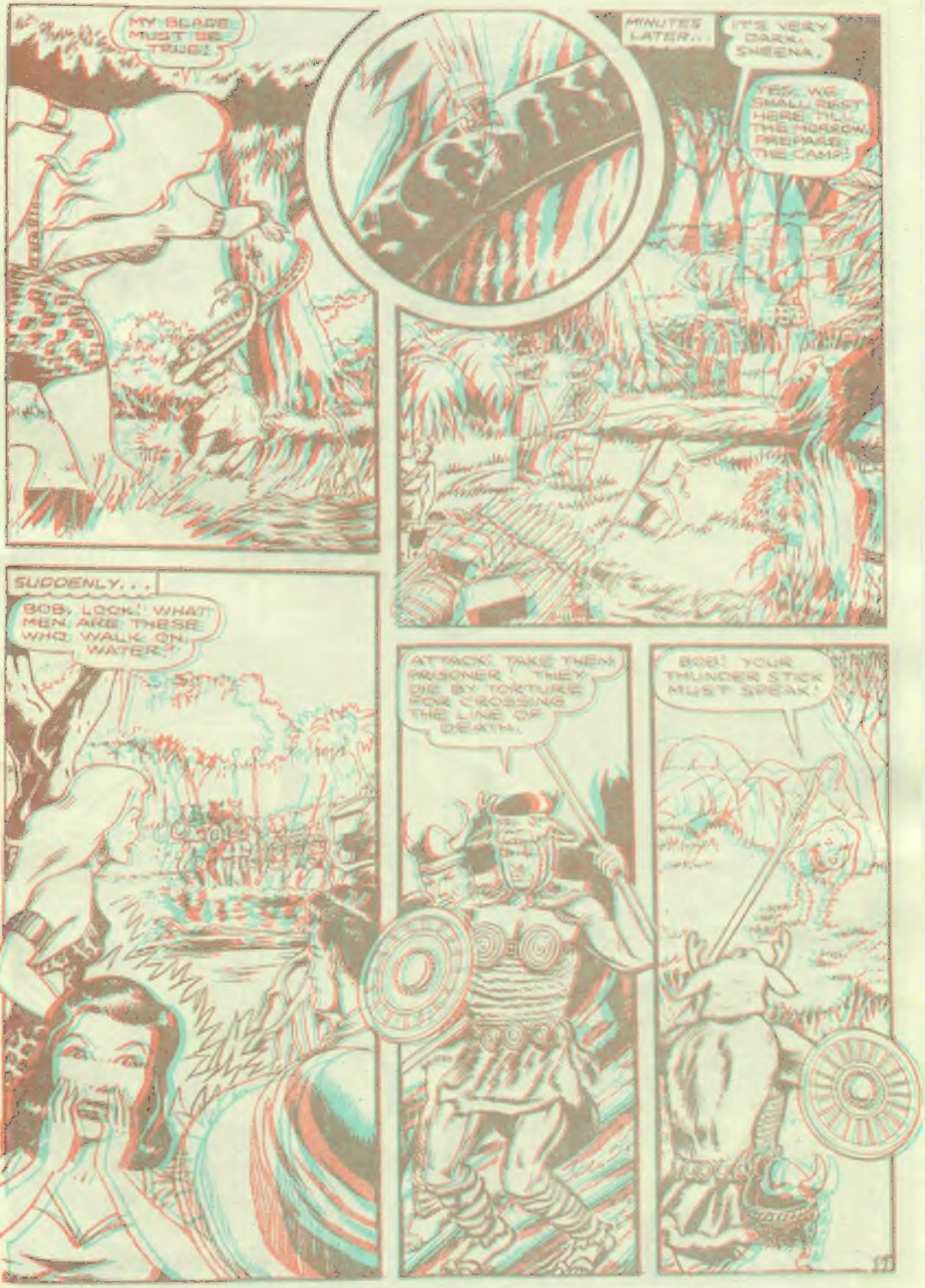

FOR, THUNDERING, RAGING FORWARD...
INSTANTLY...
WE ARE SAFE FROM THE HORNED ONES. BUT WHAT TERRIFIED THEM?
OAH! BOB, COMING DOWN THE STREAM... THAT BOAT, WITH THE BONES OF THE DEAD AS CREW!
YES, AND THOSE TWO MONKEYS! ONE OF THEM IS CHIM! CAREFUL OF THE CROCS, SHEENA!
CHEE-CHEE!
IT IS WELL. THE LONGNOSE IS LAZY TODAY, PATIENCE, CHIM.
SOON...
THERE, THE STRANGE CRAFT IS ASHORE... BUT ITS MARKINGS NEVER HAVE I SEEN BEFORE!
AND CHIM'S FRIEND, WHERE? HE COME FROM?
2


THAT I KNOW NOT. BUT THERE IS EVIL HERE, BOB. I CAN SENSE IT!
YEP, HALF OF A MAP!
FOR ONCE I AGREE WITH YOU. OH-OH. LOOK HERE. A LOCKET AROUND THE MONKEY! MAYBE SOMETHING INSIDE!
AND WHAT'S MORE, A MESSAGE SCRAWLED IN BLOOD, PLEADING FOR HELP!
COME, WE MUST FOLLOW ITS MARKINGS!
WHILE, AHEAD...
POSITIVE, DORA! MY GRANDFATHER WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE KNOWN OF A HIDDEN TREASURE HERE... AND BEFORE HE DIED...
I'M RATHER FRIGHTENED OF THIS COUNTRY, DAD. ARE YOU SURE THIS MAP THING ISN'T A WILD GOOSE CHASE?
HE TORE THE MAP IN TWO PIECES. GAVE THE OTHER PART TO DOUG, YOUR UNCLE. THE SPOT WE'RE TO MEET HIM ISN'T TOO FAR AHEAD... AND AS FOR UNFRIENDLY NATIVES, CALM YOUR FEARS.
BOSH! NOW WHO'S WORRYING? LOOK! THOSE PRINTS IN THE MUD... DOUG'S PROBABLY NEARBY.
SOON...
WHAT?! THAT WARNING... I DON'T LIKE IT!
ALL WHO CROSS THIS LINE WILL DIE
BUT, THE TRAIL LEADS TO...
YES, MY CHILD. IT'S DOUG. MURDERED!
OHH! I... I CAN'T LOOK! IS IT...


A NOISE! SOMEONE'S COMING UP THE PATH!
HIDE! PERHAPS THE KILLER RETURNS!
SOON...
LOOK, THE AUTHOR OF THE MESSAGE! BUT HE SHALL WRITE NO MORE!
GREAT SCOTT!
APPARENTLY THE MESSAGE WAS FROM HIM, BUT WHO OR WHAT KILLED HIM? AND THIS HALF MAP? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
TOO LATE! THIS ONE IS BEYOND AID! THIS HAMMER! IT BEARS THE SAME STRANGE SYMBOLS AS THE DEATH BOAT! WHAT MEAN THEY?
SUDDENLY...
BOSS, WATCH OUT! SOMEONE ATTACKS WITH THUNDER STICKS!
FOOL! THINK YOU TO ATTACK SHEENA?
WHAT REASON FOR THIS AMBUSH? SPEAK! YOU SULKING COWARD!
YOU KILLED MY UNCLE FOR HIS PART OF THE MAP, DIDN'T YOU? VERY WELL, HERE'S THE OTHER HALF. NOW KILL US TOO!
INSTANTLY...
THEY HAVE THE MAP! THE DIRTY MURDERERS! AVENGE MY BROTHER!
TAKE THE MAN! I'LL HANDLE THE GIRL!
4

SHEENA DOES NOT MURDER! YOUR UNCLE SCRAWLED A PLEA FOR HELP ON THE MAP. WE ANSWERED IT TOO LATE!
AND WE THOUGHT YOU KILLED HIM!
SHEENA, CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE US? PLEASE, I BEG YOU! HELP US LOCATE THE GOLD OF WHICH THE MAP SPEAKS.
WE SHALL JOIN YOU.
HEMBY...
DEATH TO THE INTRUDERS, MY KITTENS!
DEVIL CATS! BACK - BACK. LET THEM TASTE MY STEEL!
INSTANTLY...
DIE! EBONY ONE!
AS SHEENA WHIRLS...
IN DEATH YOU ARE STILL MATES!

WAH, MIGHTY INDEED IS THE GOLDEN ONE! OUR LEADER SHALL KNOW OF THIS!
BEHOLD! THE KILLER CATS HAVE CLAWS OF GOLD! STRANGE! BUT COME...
SHEENA LEADS THE SAFARI DEEPER INTO THE STEAMING JUNGLES. EVER THE TENSION TIGHTENS UNTIL...
FOOT TRAVEL IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE. LET US BUILD A RAFT OF REEDS.
ANOTHER OX SKULL! IT APPEARS OUR MAP IS ACCURATE. WE MUST FOLLOW WHERE THE SKULL POINTS. THE RAFT! MAKE HASTE!
SOON...
ALL SET! READY TO ROLL..
THE VERY AIR SEEMS SINISTER, SHEENA.
YES, BUT WE MUST GO ON!.. FOR THOSE THAT KILLED YOUR UNCLE MUST BE PUNISHED.
SUDDENLY...
SHEENA! LOOK... ON THE TREE!
HELP.. HELP!


MY BEARD MUST BE TRUE!
MINUTES LATER...
IT'S VERY DARK, SHEENA.
YES. WE SHALL REST HERE TILL THE MORROW. PREPARE THE CAMP!
SUDDENLY...
BOB, LOOK! WHAT MEN ARE THESE WHO WALK ON WATER?
ATTACK! TAKE THEM PRISONER. THEY DIE BY TORTURE FOR CROSSING THE LINE OF DEATH.
BOB! YOUR THUNDER STICK MUST SPEAK!

GOT HIM! THEY ARE TOO MANY, BOB!
GOOD! OUR BOAT APPROACHES AS WE PLANNED!
ABOARD WITH THEM! QUICKLY!
THE UNEQUAL STRUGGLE RAGES . . .
PROCEED, WOMAN!
MY HEAD! IT REELS! YET I MUST ACT.
THE GOLDEN FURY IS SILENCED NOW!
SUDDENLY . . .
FOOL! SHEENA DOES NOT SURRENDER SO EASILY!

MINUTES BEFORE..
CAUSES
STARS BUT I MUST HURRY, THERE S CANCER
10

INUTES LATER

SUDDENLY, GHOSTING OUT OF THE BLACKNESS...
I COMMAND YOU
BE HURST FOR THE EVIL YOU CAUSED
IS COMPOSED OF SHINING MUD I SIMPLY PAINTED TWO LIVE BUFFALO WITH IT TO OBTAIN A GHOSTLY EFFECT

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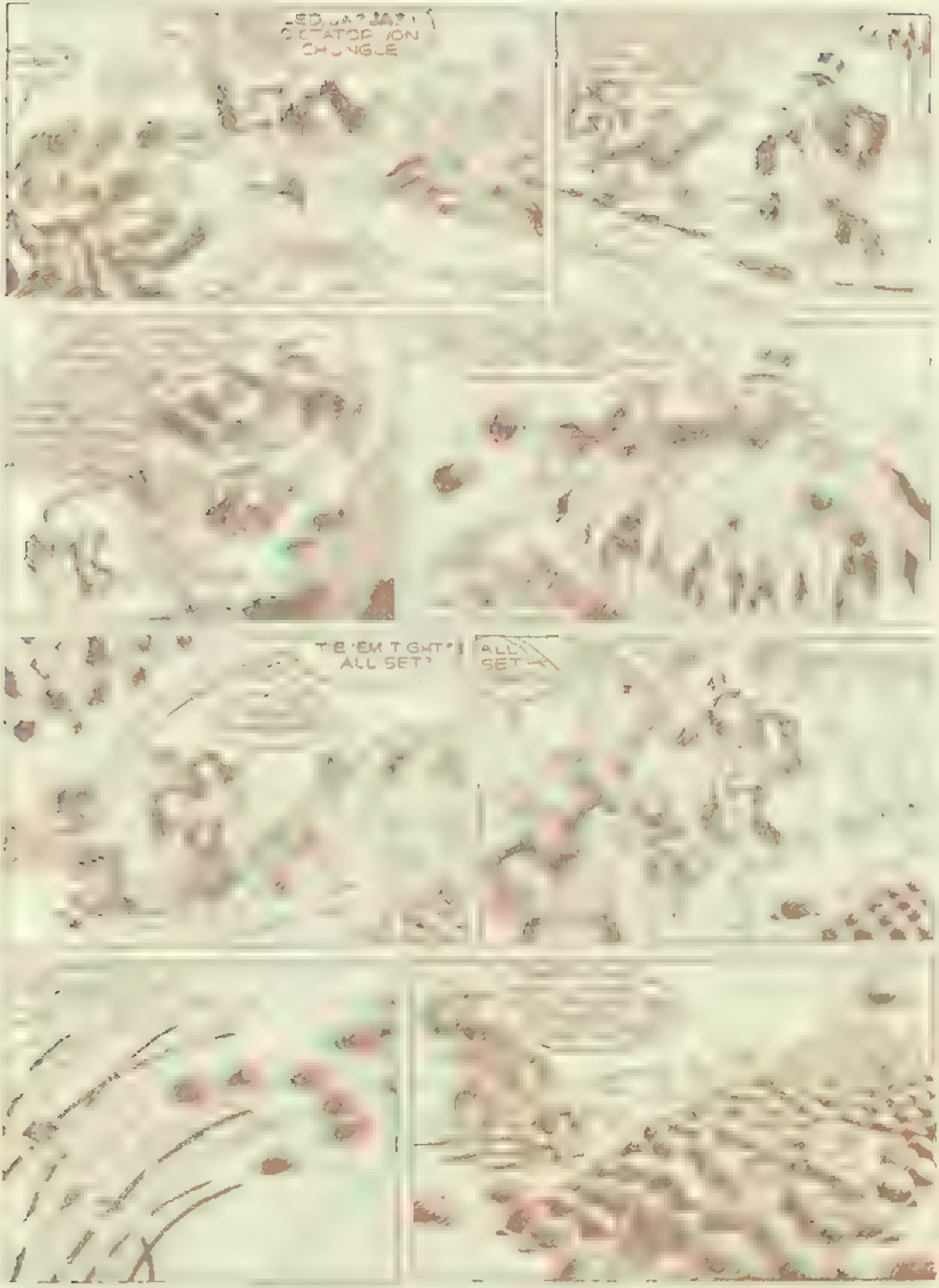
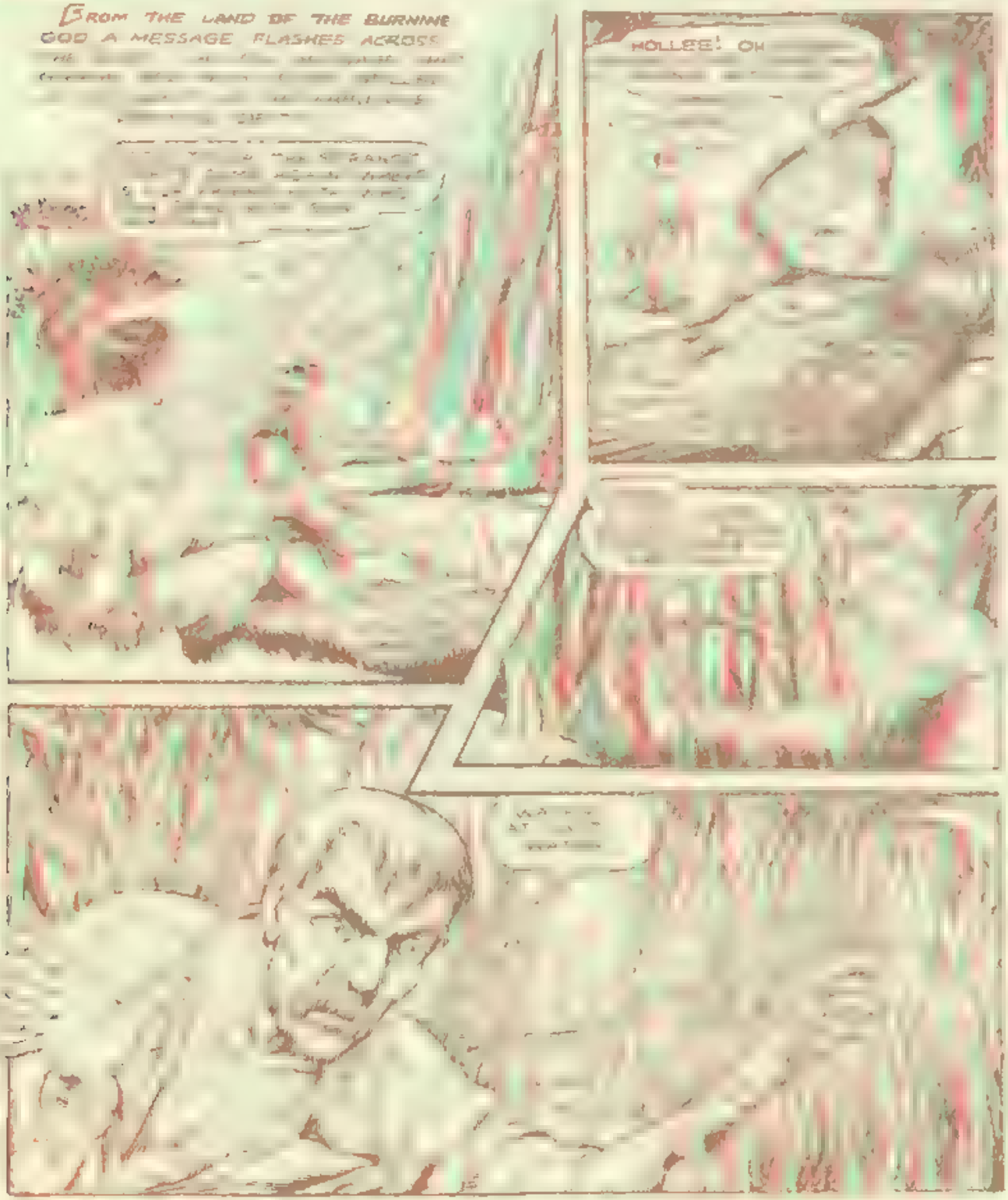

CHUNGLE
T'E 'EM T GHT?
ALL SET?
ALL SET

CONGO KING

BY
TAYLOR TIBETT



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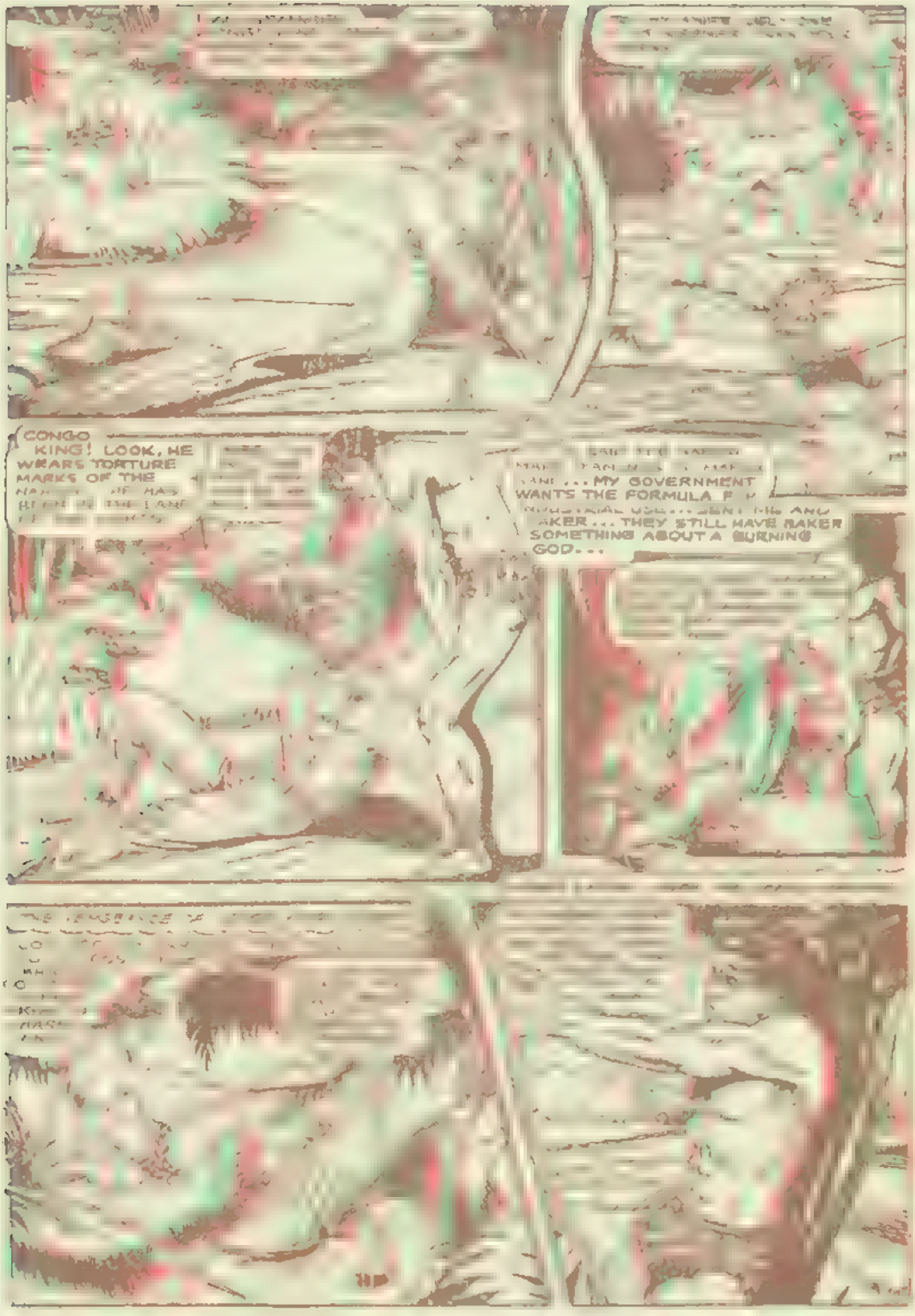
CONGO KING! LOOK, HE WEARS TORTURE MARKS OF THE
...MY GOVERNMENT WANTS THE FORMULA F
SOMETHING ABOUT A BURNING GOD...

STILL LATER, JUST OUTSIDE THE HAPSU VILLAGE
YOU A

WHERE HE ASSEMBLES
POWERFUL TRIBE OF HIS ALLY, UG

FRIENDS, IN THE MARSHES!
LET THEM GO. THEY MEAN US..
DOWN... WHILE WE SHOW CONGO KING HOW THE SUN SETS
I HAVE YET UNFINISHED

MEANWHILE...
KRANG WILL PERISH, BUT IT
TURE WITH CONGO KING IN THE NEXT

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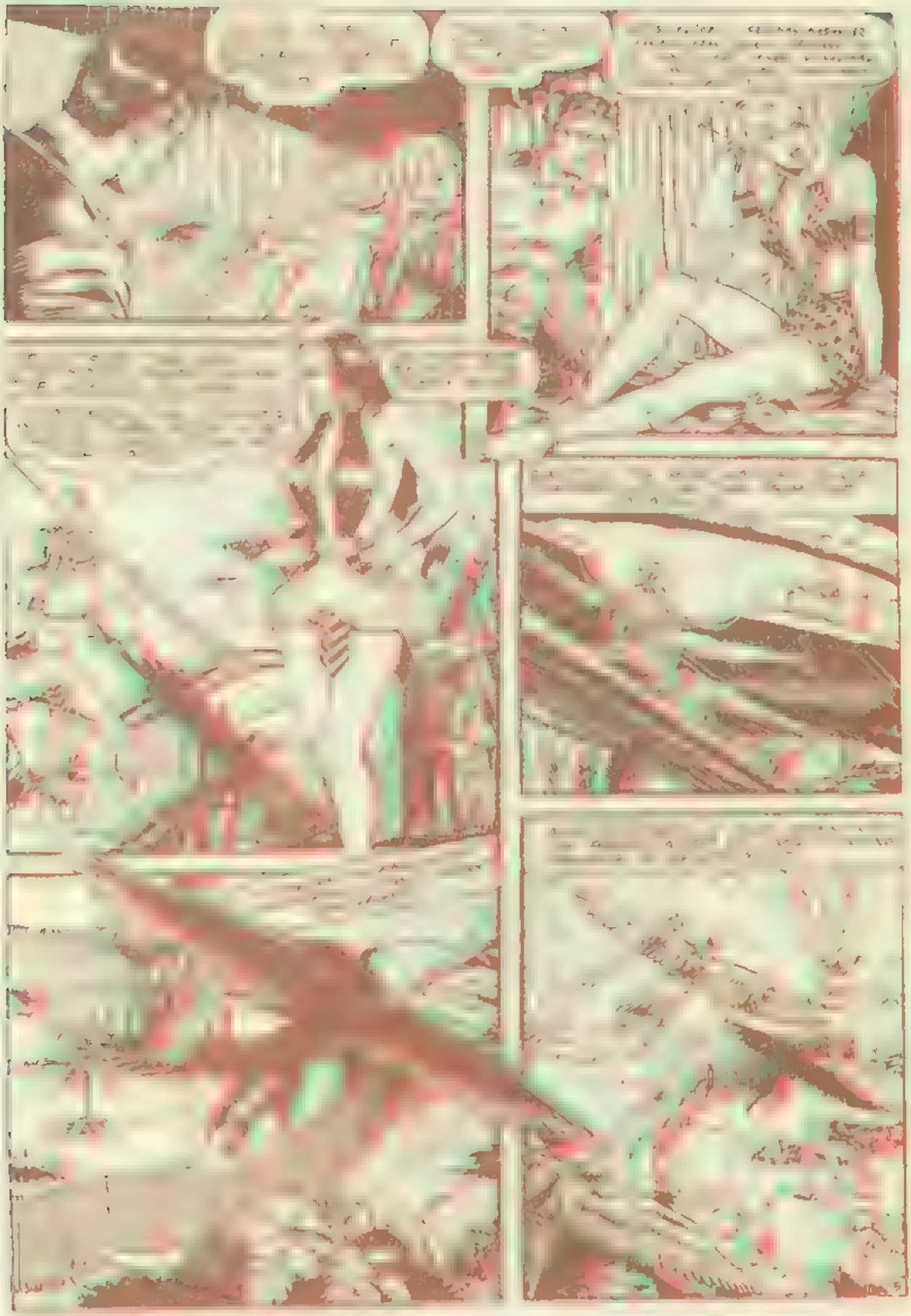
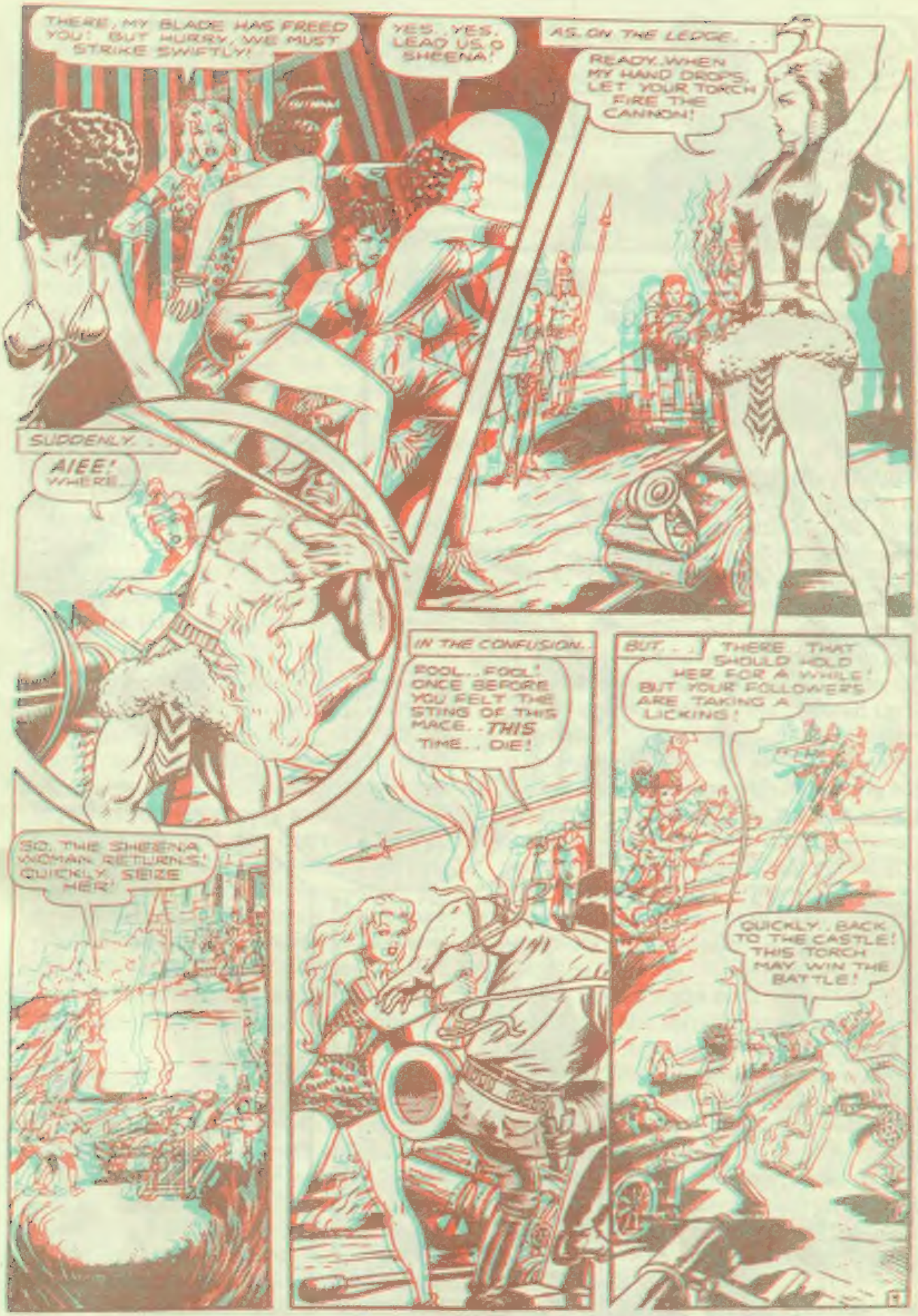
SHEENA
Queen of the Jungle

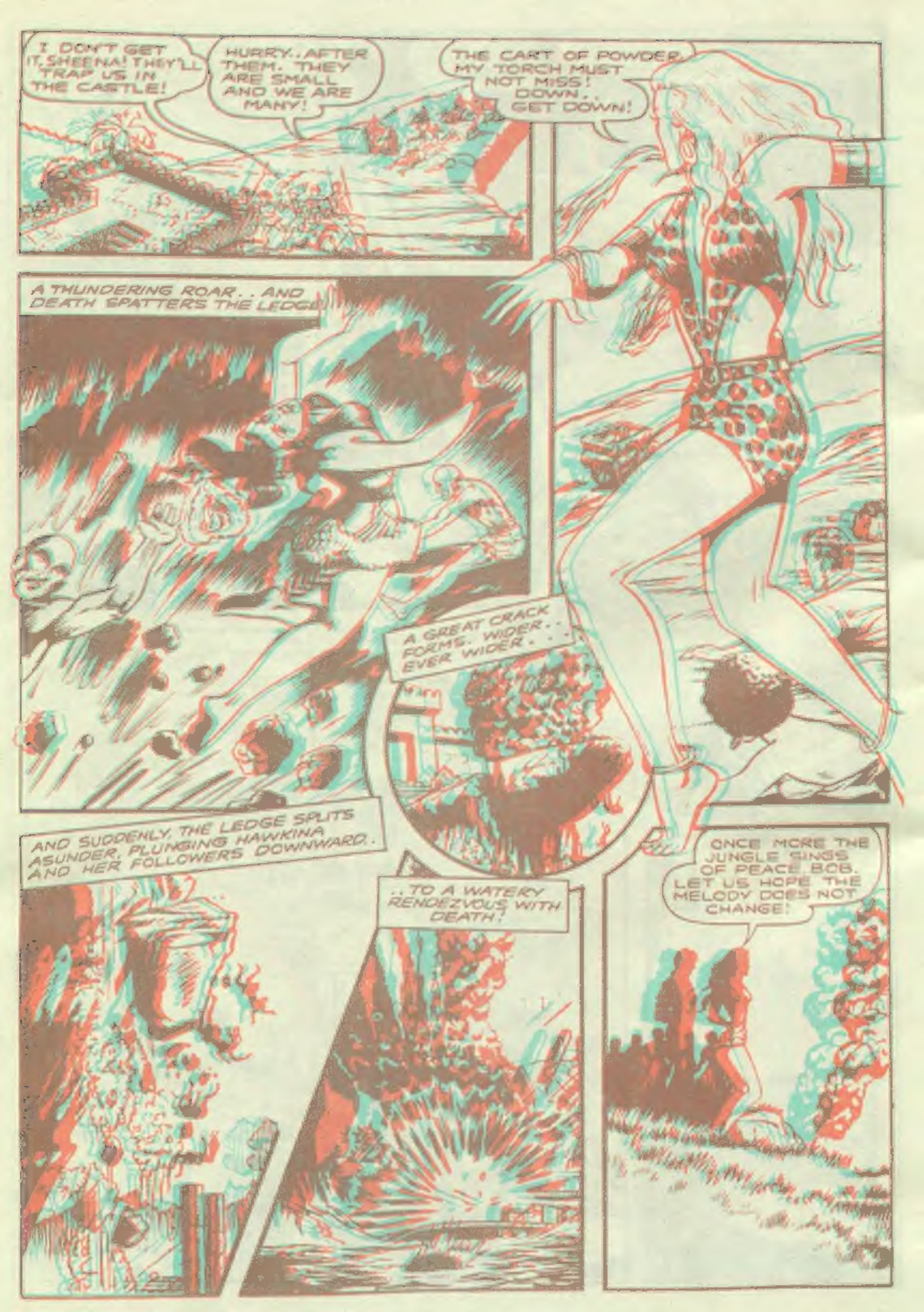
IS FR ACK
D YOU WANT
MUST RISK ; GOLDEN FORM

BUT EVEN AS SHE SINKS FOR THE LAST TIME,
SHEENA. SHEENA GREAT SCOTT.
HAIL CHIEF MAY YOUR MAN OF MAGIC CURE MY MATE!
AIA NOMBE TE' O GODS OF
NOT ON FROM HER BLOOD AND MAKE HER STRONG GAIN!



AS YOU SOUGHT
EFFECT ON ME.
AS NOTHING
OUR NUMBERS AND
GREAT ATTACK!


THERE, MY BLADE HAS FREED YOU! BUT HURRY, WE MUST STRIKE SWIFTLY!
YES, YES, LEAD US, O SHEENA!
AS ON THE LEDGE...
READY. WHEN MY HAND DROPS, LET YOUR TORCH FIRE THE CANNON!
SUDDENLY...
AIEE! WHERE...
IN THE CONFUSION...
FOOL..FOOL! ONCE BEFORE YOU FELT THE STING OF THIS MACE..THIS TIME..DIE!
BUT...
THERE. THAT SHOULD HOLD HER FOR A WHILE! BUT YOUR FOLLOWERS ARE TAKING A LICKING!
SO, THE SHEENA WOMAN RETURNS! QUICKLY, SEIZE HER!
QUICKLY, BACK TO THE CASTLE! THIS TORCH MAY WIN THE BATTLE!


I DON'T GET IT, SHEENA! THEY'LL TRAP US IN THE CASTLE!
HURRY..AFTER THEM. THEY ARE SMALL AND WE ARE MANY!
THE CART OF POWDER. MY TORCH MUST NOT MISS! DOWN.. GET DOWN!
A THUNDERING ROAR.. AND DEATH SPATTERS THE LEDGE!
A GREAT CRACK FORMS. WIDER.. EVER WIDER...
AND SUDDENLY, THE LEDGE SPLITS ASUNDER, PLUNGING HAWKINA AND HER FOLLOWERS DOWNWARD..
..TO A WATERY RENDEZVOUS WITH DEATH!
ONCE MORE THE JUNGLE SINGS OF PEACE, BOB. LET US HOPE THE MELODY DOES NOT CHANGE!

(Introduction—continued from Inside Front Cover)

back the printer's plates so I could publish them in the U.S. Editors Press Service agreed, so after the sale had been consummated I approached Thurman Scott at Fiction House. I convinced Thurman that we could reprint the tabloid-size plates as a giant comic book, just as we'd done at Wags. "But what can you do about getting us some color instead of those black and white drawings?" Thurman asked. I thought for a minute, and suggested using colored paper to get a color comic effect. Thurman loved the idea, and that's how "Jumbo" comics got started—the name reflecting those first 8 issues cut to tabloid size. In fact, the last big Jumbo issue came out at the same time as the New York World's Fair, and was a commemorative issue. After that, when the original Wags plates were used up, we re-edited the material and brought Jumbo to conventional comic book size (still called Jumbo!). Sheena still was just one of the strips.

Around 1940, Sheena first appeared as a lead feature in the meanwhile, Universal Phoenix Features had gone into a "holding pattern" because I had gone into a brief partnership with Will Eisner in mid-1938 only to buy him out in 1940 when Will was drafted into the Army to do military posters. (Will had become so accomplished—and so expensive!—as a free-lance artist, that the only way I could afford his services was to make him a partner.) After "Eisner & Iger, Ltd." was dissolved, I returned to publishing as "Phoenix Features." A few years later, Fiction House requested that I produce a Sheena Quarterly, and for the next 10 years or so, "Sheena" had her own comic. In 1953, there was a big to do about 3-D comics. Thurman Scott called me to ask whether I could produce a 3-D "Sheena" to get in on the excitement. I said I could, even though I didn't have the slightest idea how! The first thing I did was to call a close friend

of mine, Frank Little, for advice. Frank was a highly talented animator for Paul Terry ("Terry Tunes" and "Mighty Mouse"), and he assured me he would pitch in and help. So with Bob Webb to do the drawings, and Frank Little to do the color separations and yours truly to do the stories, we felt we had a dynamic team. Thurman Scott was keeping his fingers crossed that the Sheena 3-D would be a smash hit and would pull Fiction House out of its financial slump. The Sheena "team" got all the materials together and Frank Little traveled up to Waterbury, Connecticut to Eastern Color Printing to do the separations. Great care was taken with the inking and printing, and the Sheena 3-D was a masterpiece. The only disappointment was that Sheena alone couldn't reverse the fortunes of Fiction House, and the company soon went out of business. If memory serves me correctly, the Sheena 3-D was Sheena's last comic book appearance until now. Our new venture, "The Caplin-Iger Company," is dedicated to presenting features from the "Iger Shop" in a historical context. It is my hope that relating my personal experiences in connection with the evolution of "Sheena, Queen of the Jungle," as well as other features, will increase the understanding and enjoyment of these golden-age creations for future generations of comic book collectors.

— Jerry Iger, 1985

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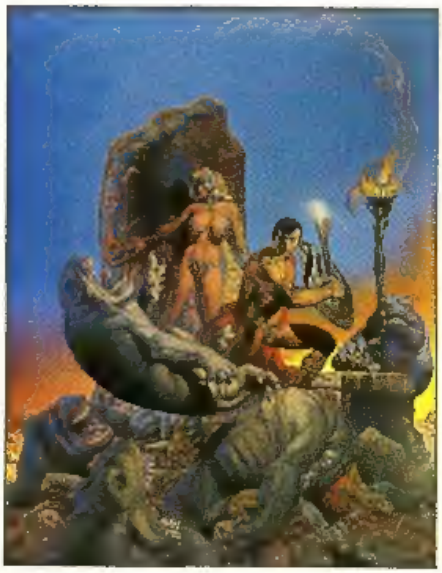

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